

connected, via a through hole formed in the interior of the lamp holder 6, to an electrode 8 of the lamp 2 to which it applies a supply voltage. To this end, the wire 4 is usually connected to the electrode 8 of the lamp 2 by the soldering method using lead-containing solder.

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**In the Claims:**

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32. (Twice Amended) An element for electrically connecting an electrode connected to a lamp to a wire having an exterior sheath and a conductive core, comprising:

- a body having first arms for pressing and securing the wire, said body further having second arms for pressing and securing the conductive core; and
- a clamping part having a snap-fit part substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and integrally extending at an angle from said body, said clamping part for pressing and securing the electrode connected to said lamp.

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**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The Office Action dated December 4, 2002, has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. In the present application, claims 32-42 are currently pending.

In the Office Action dated December 4, 2002, the specification is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d) because a trough-shaped clamping part has not been described in the specification. In view of the amendment to the claims made herein, Applicants submit that this objection to the specification is moot.

In addition, the disclosure is objected to because at page 3, line 4, "4" should be

changed to --6--. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying this typographic error. Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning at Page 2, line 20, to correct the misnumbering indicated by the Examiner and to correct an additional misnumbering in the subsequent line of the specification.

In addition, in the Office Action, claims 32-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,753,193 to Teagno et al. (hereinafter "Teagno") in view of the conventional art shown in the application. Applicants hereby traverse this rejection and reconsideration is requested. The rejection of claims 32-42 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 32-36 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a clamping part having a snap-fit part substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and integrally extending at an angle from said body, said clamping part for pressing and securing the electrode connected to said lamp." None of the cited references including Teagno and the conventional art shown in the application, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The Office Action states "Teagno does not show the electrode to be that of a lamp and the lamp and the electrode fixed by a clamp having clamping features." Office Action at page 3. Applicants submit that this is but one of the many features of the claimed invention not taught or suggested by Teagno. The Examiner then cites the conventional art shown in the application as teaching both a lamp with an electrode and a trough-like clamping part. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of both cited references. That is, the structure of at least claim 32 of the present invention is different from the structure of the conventional art shown in the application in that the conventional art shows that the lamp is surrounded by a lamp housing and that the lamp housing is inserted and secured to a lamp holder. Further, the conventional art shows an electrode of the lamp is connected to a wire through a hole formed in the interior of the lamp holder. However, the conventional art does not teach or suggest that the lamp and the electrode are secured by a clamping part having a snap fit

part. Teagno also fails to teach these features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 and claims 33-36, which depend from claim 32, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 37-42 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a clamping structure that is integral with, and angularly extends from, said clamp, said clamping structure dimensioned to snap fit with the electrode." As discussed above with respect to claims 32-36, none of the cited references including Teagno and the conventional art shown in the application, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 37 and claims 38-42, which depend from claim 37, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: March 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Teresa M. Arroyo  
Teresa M. Arroyo

Registration No.: 50,015  
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP  
1900 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 496-7500



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 2, line 20, as follows:

Figure 1 is an exploded view of a soldering part between a lamp and a wire in a back light unit, and Figure 2 illustrates a soldered state between the lamp and the wire illustrated in Figure 1. In Figure 1 and Figure 2, the wire 4 passes through a lamp holder 6 to be connected to an electrode 8 of the lamp 2. The lamp 2 is located at one end of a back light support member 12 in such a manner as to be surrounded with a lamp housing 10. One end of the lamp housing 10 is internally inserted in and secured to the lamp holder 6. The wire 4 is connected, via a through hole formed in the interior of the lamp holder [4] 6, to an electrode 8 of the lamp [4] 2 to which it applies a supply voltage. To this end, the wire 4 is usually connected to the electrode 8 of the lamp 2 by the soldering method using lead-containing solder.

**In the Claims:**

32. (Twice Amended) An element for electrically connecting an electrode connected to a lamp to a wire having an exterior sheath and a conductive core, comprising:

a body having first arms for pressing and securing the wire, said body further having second arms for pressing and securing the conductive core; and

a [trough-shaped] clamping part having [lamp clamps that form sides, wherein said clamping part] a snap-fit part substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lamp and integrally [extends] extending at an angle from said body, [and wherein said lamp clamps are] said clamping part for pressing and securing the electrode connected to said lamp[, wherein the electrode and the lamp are fixed by the trough-shaped clamping part and the lamp clamps].